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HOME INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL YOUNGSTERS (HIPPY)

Fact Sheet
28

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What is HIPPY?

HIPPY is the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters. The program recognizes that parents are their child's first and most important teacher and helps them work with their three-, four-, and five-year-olds at home. The program helps these children build their skills and confidence before starting school. HIPPY also provides parents with an enhanced sense of their own abilities and the satisfaction of teaching their own children.

HIPPY originated in Israel in 1969 as a program to serve parents with limited formal education. The program has grown to a world-wide movement and now serves more than 15,000 families across the United States. Maryland's HIPPY programs operate in public and community-based settings.

How does the program help parents teach their children?

The HIPPY program builds on the basic bond between parents and children. Supported by easy-to-use activity packets, home visits, and group meetings, parents learn how to prepare their children for success in school and beyond.

While their children are three to five years old, parents receive a progressive series of 90 weekly packets of daily activities. Parents practice these activities by role-playing them with paraprofessionals before helping their children complete them. Every other week, parents attend group meetings with other parents and HIPPY staff.

What skills does HIPPY teach?

HIPPY's structured curriculum combines learning and play to help parents encourage their children to recognize shapes and colors, tell stories, follow directions, solve logical problems, and acquire other school readiness skills. Instruction also includes nine story books per year and helps develop language skills. It generally takes parents and children 15-20 minutes a day to complete the activities.

How is HIPPY funded?

Maryland's HIPPY programs are funded through nonprofit and business partnerships as well as Federal Title 1, Even Start, and other state and federal programs. Although no funds are allocated from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Department supports the program by participating in a state cluster fee structure, which lowers the fees for all programs, and by coordinating HIPPY staff training and special events.

***Where are
Maryland's
HIPPY programs?***

Maryland currently has four HIPPY programs statewide that assist more than 300 families per year. The programs are:

Baltimore City

Enterprise Community Partners

410-454-1087

Baltimore County

Baltimore County Public Schools

410-887-3037

Calvert County

Calvert County Public Schools

410-535-6956

Worcester County

Snow Hill Elementary School

410-632-5222

***Where can I learn
more about HIPPY?***

To learn more about HIPPY, contact the State Coordinator for the HIPPY Program at 410-767-0314.